

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES GROUP WITHDRAWS FROM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Action Was Resorted to After Labor's Final Effort to Obtain Adoption of a Collective Bargaining Resolution Had Been Defeated By the Vote of a Majority of the Capital Group—Compers Told Capitalists: "We Will Meet You Again in Conference and When We Do Meet You There You Will Be Glad to Talk Collective Bargaining."—Next Move to Restore Industrial Peace Evidently Rests With President Wilson.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Labor withdrawal from the National Industrial Conference today after its final effort to obtain adoption of a collective bargaining resolution had been defeated by the vote of a majority of the capital group.

Although the representatives of both the public and capital announced their intention of remaining in the conference, the next move in the effort to restore industrial peace to the country evidently rested with President Wilson.

Mr. Lane will make a personal report of the situation to the president, but neither side in the conference nor officials generally would venture a prediction as to what course Mr. Wilson would take.

Meantime the conference will be called together tomorrow as usual.

Withdrawal of the labor group was announced by Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor, after a dramatic speech. It came only a few hours after the president had made a statement in which he had regarded as the inevitable had read a letter in which President Wilson, dictating from his sickbed, appealed for harmony in the conference and for the working out of a programme of industrial peace.

Representatives of labor did not join in the applause which greeted the letter and Mr. Compers characterized as "most unfortunate" a motion by John Spargo of the public group, that each group pledge the president if they make every effort to accomplish the work for which the conference was called.

The conference recessed as the labor group could meet to determine its future course.

When the conference convened in the afternoon, the labor group proposed a brief resolution recognizing the right of workers to bargain collectively, and to have representatives of their own choosing.

Under a suspension of the rules, the resolution was immediately brought to discussion and vote, the labor and public groups uniting in its support.

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rules this majority was sufficient to defeat the resolution. With the announcement of the result, Mr. Compers told the conference the resolution had been rejected "without right or reason" and on grounds so flimsy that the men sitting in the employers' group will have difficulty in explaining their action to their fellows in the world.

"You have defeated the labor group in its declaration," declared Mr. Compers, "and now we will meet you again in conference and when we do meet you there you will be glad to talk collective bargaining."

"I have sung my swan song in this conference. You have by your action legislated the defeat of every fair proposition on our part. The die is cast. We cannot remain longer."

Representatives of a four-railroad brotherhoods remained in the conference until the session adjourned, but they were not to be regarded as "out of courtesy to the other delegates" and that they were in accord with the main body of the labor group.

Before the labor delegates left the hall, Mr. Spargo asked them not to make their decision irrevocable, but to remain in the conference until the conference would "proceed to develop and formulate a general program which would clearly define the right of collective bargaining."

Calling attention that only a "very small minority" of the members of the conference had voted against the collective bargaining resolution while about 50 favored it, Dr. Charles W. Eliot, of the public group, said this inconsistency was due to the "imposition" under which the conference worked.

Harry A. Wheeler, chairman of the employers' group, announced the intention of his group to remain here for further work, said capital representatives would not accept the resolution, but would remain in the conference. He declared they had worked sincerely for what they considered the best solution, but were unwilling to stand on their record of the conference.

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Cabled Paragraphs

French Warships Bombarding Kronstadt.

Copenhagen, Oct. 22.—A despatch to the Politiken from Helsingfors reports that French warships have been bombarding Kronstadt since Monday. They are able to keep beyond range of the fortress' artillery owing to the long range of their guns.

PRESIDENT PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT SOME BUSINESS

Washington, Oct. 22.—President Wilson was permitted again to transact some public business. After what his physicians described as one of the best nights he has had since his illness began, he signed the amendments to the food control act providing penalties for hoarding and profiteering in food and clothing, and three other measures of minor importance.

The prohibition enforcement bill will be returned to the White House by the department of justice with an opinion and the senate is expected that if the president shows no ill effects from his work yesterday and today, he will be allowed to study the opinion and pass on the bill. He has until midnight of October 23 to act before the measure becomes a law without his signature.

The president's physician announced today that his temperature, pulse and respiration continued normal and that digestion was more satisfactory. Their morning bulletin follows:

"White House, Oct. 22, 1919, 11:10 a. m. 'The president had one of the best nights since his illness began. His temperature, pulse and respiration rates continued normal. His digestion is more satisfactory.'"

(Signed) "GRAYSON."

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Trade Commission Lights on Watson

Denies His Allegations and Charges the Senator With Having Relations With the Chicago Packers.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Proof of the charges of Senator Watson, Republican, Indiana, that the Federal Trade Commission is a hotbed of Bolshevism, sedition and anarchy was challenged today by the commission.

In a formal statement, it charged Senator Watson with having relations with the Chicago packers and declared that his allegations against the commission's employees were part of a scheme to discredit the commission and the department of justice "with the purpose of subverting justice."

"The commission further alleged that it was not a 'coincidence' that the employees attacked by Senator Watson were those who had been summoned to testify in the case against the packers which the department of justice soon is to present to a federal grand jury in Chicago."

"As the witnesses are about to enter the grand jury room," said the commission, "there is every effort to discredit them."

Declaring that while they themselves had stood many attacks, secret and public, the commissioners said they would be derelict in their duty if they should let pass unchallenged "the false, outrageous and despicable assault" made upon members of their staff "whose only offense is that they have spoken the truth in the performance of their duty" under constant harassment, resisting calumnies, offers of employment, and attempted seductions.

At the time the commission's statement was made public, Senator Watson was in the city, and the packers' charge was based upon a letter which he had written to the commission. He also declared that he was investigating the activities of the packers.

Senator Watson, a Georgia, a former member of the commission, replying to Senator Watson, defended the commission and made a vigorous attack on the packers, charging that they were attempting to bring about a change in the government and would make known the results to the public from time to time.

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Miners and Operators on the Edge of Break

Hinges on Whether Miners Accept Proposal to Be Made By Secretary Wilson, That Ignores the 30 Hour Week.

Washington, Oct. 22.—While committing representing miners and operators, meeting in the morning to avert the strike of half a million soft coal miners set for November 1, were on the verge tonight of parting company for good, Secretary of Labor Wilson held them together, overnight, at least, to make a final attempt to avert the strike.

Wilson was very assured that the miners would accept the offer and indicated that it would be rejected by the miners.

Wilson's confidence was based upon the fact that the miners had been summoned to testify in the case against the packers which the department of justice soon is to present to a federal grand jury in Chicago."

"As the witnesses are about to enter the grand jury room," said the commission, "there is every effort to discredit them."

Declaring that while they themselves had stood many attacks, secret and public, the commissioners said they would be derelict in their duty if they should let pass unchallenged "the false, outrageous and despicable assault" made upon members of their staff "whose only offense is that they have spoken the truth in the performance of their duty" under constant harassment, resisting calumnies, offers of employment, and attempted seductions.

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